

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7 and 9-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate claim 2 therein, claim 2 is canceled, claim 3 is amended to be in independent form by incorporating claim 1 therein, claim 7 is amended to incorporate claim 8 therein, and claim 8 is canceled. These amendments are made to place the application in condition for allowance, as discussed further below.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2, 3, 8 and 11-21 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate allowable claim 2 therein, allowable claim 3 is amended to be in independent form by incorporating claim 1 therein, and claim 7 is amended to incorporate allowable claim 8 therein.

Accordingly, all of the claims now contain subject matter indicated to be allowable. The application is thus believed to be in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 4-7, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,033,781 (Brotzman). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action, it was alleged that Brotzman described the process of claim 1 and the composition of claim 7 because Brotzman mentioned n-propyltrimethoxysilane (col. 4, line 46) and diphenyldimethoxysilane (column 4, line 36). However, at column 2, lines 45-58, it is clear that n-propyltrimethoxysilane is present as the optional x substituent in Si(w,x,y,z) (wherein x is 0-30 mole percent of the monomeric units) and that diphenyldimethoxysilane is present as the optional y substituent in Si(w,x,y,z) (wherein y is 0-50 mole percent of the monomeric units), the compound having to contain tetraethylsilicate

as a monomeric unit (because w is required to be present in the compound in an amount of 20-100 mole percent of the monomeric units). Such compound(s), i.e., Si-tetraethylsilicate-(n-propyltrimethoxysilane) and Si-tetraethylsilicate-diphenyldimethoxysilane, would not satisfy the surface treatment agent compounds defined in claims 1 and 7, contrary to the assertions of the Patent Office.

However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter as discussed above. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

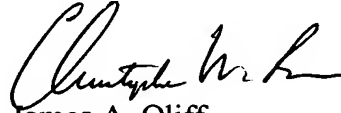
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Brotzman does not teach or suggest claims 1, 4-7, 9 or 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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